

# **Joint Meeting of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee and the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group**

Rosen Plaza Hotel  
Orlando, Florida  
June 8, 2016

## **Meeting Summary**

The Southern States Energy Board's (SSEB) Joint Meeting of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee and the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group occurred on June 8, 2016. The event was held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida in conjunction with the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF).

Mr. Christopher Wells, Assistant Director of Nuclear Programs for the Southern States Energy Board, welcomed the group and provided logistical and administrative meeting announcements. Following these comments, Mr. Wells gave brief opening remarks and initiated the introduction of all meeting participants. Additionally, Mr. Wells reminded the group the meeting would be very short since the majority of program updates were delivered to the entire audience during the NTSF. More specifically, he noted the gathering would consist of only a few formal PowerPoint presentations in addition to several quick visits by federal agency partners to address programmatic questions and/or concerning issues.

The first speaker was Mr. Carlisle Smith, Director of the Hazardous Materials Program of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. Mr. Smith gave an eclipsed version of the year in review of the Level VI Program. He identified the certification classes that had taken place in the southern region and reminded those states who were in need of training to retain their certification standard. In conclusion, he spoke about the Level VI Program Peer Review best practices and lessons learned.

Mr. John Heaton, Eddy Lea Energy Alliance Board Chairman, was the next presenter to address the group. Mr. Heaton spoke about why there was a need for consolidated interim storage and then proceeded to explain the nature of the Eddy Lea Energy Alliance and why the 1000 acres purchased by the entity in New Mexico is the ideal location to site the facility. He noted the geologic characteristics of the land and surrounding areas as well as the knowledge base and workforce associated with WIPP as major selling points for the location. He

also talked about their partnership with Holtec and provided graphical diagrams of the HI-STORM UMAX system to be employed at the site. Finally, he discussed the legal hurdles, legislative initiatives, contractual obligations and involvement of the stakeholders (consent-based siting) necessary to bring the project to fruition.

The third speaker of the meeting was Mr. Jeff Galan of the Office of Material Management and Minimization (M<sup>3</sup>). Mr. Galan spoke about an activity within M<sup>3</sup> called the U.S. Origin Nuclear Material Removal Program. A major priority of program is reducing and protecting vulnerable nuclear and radiological material located at civilian sites worldwide. Upon designation into the program, fuel will be destined for either the Savannah River Site (SRS) or the Idaho National Laboratory depending on its composition. To date 66 shipments, the majority (54) of which have entered the U.S. via the southern region (Naval Support Activity Charleston), have been completed from 33 countries.

He discussed the progress of the campaign initiated by M<sup>3</sup> in the summer of 2015 to return highly enriched uranium (HEU) from the Chalk River facility in Ontario to the SRS. Next, he began briefing the group regarding an upcoming campaign out of Canada, which will commence this year and will involve Mo-99 HEU Target Residue Material. The Mo-99 is used to produce medical isotopes used worldwide for therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures. These movements will traverse many SSEB member states en route to SRS. He noted his organization would continue to coordinate with SSEB and the corridor states along the route for planning and that the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) would remain the primary asset for delivering emergency response training. Mr. Galan ended his presentation by talking about package testing and showing photos of the cask, Nuclear Assurance Corporation's Legal Weight Truck, to be used for the campaign.

Mr. Elgan Usrey, SSEB Consultant, took the helm for the next segment of the meeting, which included a discussion on the progress of the Section 180(c) exercise. He informed the group of the original goals, which involved evaluating the funding allocation, understanding the communication process and receiving feedback from the merit review panel. Mr. Usrey highlighted some of the lessons learned from the process such as the miscalculation of the substantial amount of time required to gather the data for an application submittal. In summary, he conversed about the future actions to be undertaken for FY2017: developing a fact sheet; creating a grant application template; resolving the funding formula; devising proposed policy revision language and developing TEPP training modules.

Mr. James Mason, Institutional Affairs Manager, of the DOE's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) gave an impromptu speech to address a few subject matters. He did not report a specific date for the re-opening of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP); however, Mr. Mason noted as we draw nearer to that timeframe the SSEB TRU corridor states have to remain in a stance of preparedness. Thus, he

announced SSEB will be coordinating with its member states and the DOE-CBFO to conduct a southern corridor roadshow in December 2016. This event will involve the WIPP truck and transportation packages traversing the southern region and stopping in each corridor state to offer presentations/displays, mock inspections, briefings to the general public and/or public officials and discuss training. This public outreach effort will serve as a precursor to shipment resumption and will allow interested parties to learn more about the project and how SSEB coordinates with the states to create a successful transportation program.

The Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Review was delivered by Ken Keaton of TRG Incorporated. Mr. Keaton told the committees he would provide an overview of the training activities that have taken place to date, activities scheduled for the near future, training program revisions and available program resources. He displayed a chart with the FY 2016 training courses in the southern region (79 classes) as well as the number of students (1151) who have received credit. Mr. Keaton noted (10) Technician Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (TMERRTT) sessions were scheduled in various states (KY, MD, NC and SC) for the remainder of the year as well as (20) MERRTT and CMERRTT classes throughout the southern region. He noted the possibility of a Radiation Specialist Course in Charlotte, North Carolina in late August pending the availability of funding. He briefly spoke about the (6) full-scale live source exercises and (5) tabletops conducted in FY2016 and how TEPP would like to continue the trend into the upcoming fiscal year. Next, he talked about the MERRTT revision process being conducted by the DOE TEPP Working Group to improve the current version of the training modules. The draft videos and printed materials revisions have been reviewed and are awaiting the approval of the TEPP Training Working Group. Mr. Keaton estimated late summer of 2016 for the MERRTT release date. He provided an update of the TEPP Improvement Projects including agency cooperation with the National Fire Protection Association and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Center for Domestic Preparedness regarding hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction applicable standards and practices. Lastly, Mr. Keaton gave the attendees a website address for TEPP resources.

The remaining portion of the meeting consisted of a round table discussion to highlight the activities of all states in attendance. After all states had provided an update, Mr. Wells reported on the status of activities at SSEB.

The final order of business at the meeting was the announcement of the location and date of the next meeting of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee and the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group. Since the group continues to meet in conjunction with the NTSF for their Spring meeting, it was reported that they would convene for the winter gathering in the November or December timeframe. Potential locations included Myrtle Beach (SC) or Austin (TX).

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